

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 OSLO 02201 301621Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CPR-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 SS-15 DODE-00 SSC-01 /043 W

----- 123062

R 301250Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9804

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T OSLO 2201

E.O.GDS

TAGS: PDIP, BE, UR, NO

SUBJ: NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO BRUSSELS-SERGE K.ROMANOVSKIY

REF: BRUSSELS 03914

1. NEWLY NAMED SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM SERGE K. ROMANOVSKIY LEFT OSLO IN MARCH AFTER SERVING HERE FOR SEVEN YEARS, THE LAST 18 MOS AS DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. HIS ASSIGNMENT IN OSLO WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN A DOWNTURN IN HIS CAREER. IT WAS FOREIGN TO HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AND SPECULATION WAS THAT SOVIET LEADERSHIP WANTED HIM TO BE ABROAD BECAUSE OF HIS PREVIOUS POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

2. ROMANOVSKIY STARTED SLOWLY IN OSLO. ALTHOUGH HE SPEAKS FAIR FRENCH, HIS SPARSE KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH LIMITED HIS CONTACT WITH NORwegians AND WITH HIS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, WITH WHOM HE TENDED TO BE RATHER RESERVED. EARLY IN HIS STAY HERE HE AND HIS WIFE STUDIED ENGLISH, BUT HE RARELY SPOKE IT, HOWEVER, DURING HIS STAY SOVIET EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH NORWEGIANS PICKED UP RAPIDLY, PARTLY DUE TO THE IMPROVING EAST-WEST CLIMATE AND PARTLY TO HIS INITIATIVE. ROMANOVSKIY ENTERTAINED MORE REQUENNTLY THAN HIS PREDECESSORS. OFTEN WITH SMALL GROUPS. HE MADE CONTACT WITH IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND OTHER MINISTRIES, PARLIAMENT AND THE LABOR, SOCIALIST LEFT AND COMMUNIST PARTIES. GENERALLY

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PAGE 02 OSLO 02201 301621Z

HE WORKED THROUGH AN INTERPRETER.

3. BORN ON OCTOBER 21, 1923 IN NOVOSELTSY.

SMOLENSK OBLAST, HE MARRIED TAMARA NIKITICHNA A
PEDIATRIC SURGEON WHO WAS BORN NOVEMBER 5, 1925.
ROMANOVSKIY'S EARLY CAREER WAS SPENT IN
YOUTH ACTIVITIES. HE WAS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE IN-
TERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS, 1947-49; DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
OF THE ANTI-FASCIST COMMITTEE OF USSR YOUTH 1947-54;
SECRETARY OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH
1949-55; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF SOVIET
YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, 1954-55. DURING 1955-60 HE SERVED
ON THE SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF PEACE,
AND IN 1957-59 WAS KOMSOMOL SECRETARY. IN 1960-62 HE SERVED
AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR STATE COMMITTEE FOR
CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES, LATER TO BE
CHAIRMAN FROM 1962-65. NAMED AMBASSADOR TO NORWAY
IN JANUARY 1968. HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE SUPREME
SOVIET IN 1968.

4. IN IS WORK WITH YOUTH AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATONS

HE REPORTEDLY TRAVELED FREQUENTLY, OFTEN AS A MEMBER OF
KRUSCHEV, KOSYGIN, BREZHNEV AND POGORNY ENTOURAGES.
AS A LONG TIME MEMBER OF THE "KOMSOMOL" GROUP". HE HAD
CLOSE TIES WITH SHELEPIN AND SEMICHASTNIY. AT THE TIME
OF SHELEPIN'S FALL THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT ROMAN-
OVSKIY'S FORTUNES MIGHT ALSO BE AFFECTED.

5. MRS. ROMANOVSKI IS FRIENDLY AND ATTRACTIVE; SHE
SPEAKES BETTER ENGLISH THAN HER HUSBAND. DURING
HER STAY IN OSLO SHE SUFFERED A BROKEN LEG, WHICH
PROVIDED HERAN APPARENTLY WELCOME EXCUSE TO RETURN
TO MOSCOW, WHERE SHE REMAINED TO PURSUE HER PRACTICE
OF MEDICINE.BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greenet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OSLO02201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750190-0211
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975055/aaaaaegl.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BRUSSELS 03914
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greenet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 OCT 2003 by greenet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO BRUSSELS-SERGE K.ROMANOVSKIY
TAGS: PDIP, BE, UR, NO, (ROMANOVSKIY, SERGE K)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006